

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or)	
)	CONSENT
Revocation of the Educator Certificate of)	
)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
Eleanor Kirkland)	
)	
Certificate 111917)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 9, 2006. On January 23, 2005, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Eleanor Kirkland, a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate 111917 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Ms. Kirkland received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature. Through legal counsel, Ms. Kirkland consented to the suspension of her certificate for a one-year period, retroactive to November 21, 2005. On August 9, 2006, the State Board considered the information presented by the Department and voted to order the suspension of Ms. Kirkland's certificate on the agreed-upon terms, as provided in this Order.

Eleanor
Kirkland

Initial Here

Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Kirkland holds a valid South Carolina certificate with over twenty years of educator experience. During the 2005-06 school year, Ms. Kirkland was a special education teacher at Mount Pleasant Middle School in the Lee County

School District. On November 21, 2005, the Lee County Board of Trustees voted to terminate Ms. Kirkland's employment with the District after Ms. Kirkland grabbed a thirteen-year old, mentally disabled, female student by the wrist, resulting in the student requiring medical treatment.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the information presented supports its determination that just cause exists to suspend Ms. Kirkland's certificate 111917 for a one-year period, commencing on November 21, 2005, through November 21, 2006. If Ms. Kirkland wishes to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, Ms. Kirkland must make a written request to the Department's Office of Educator Certification.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Joe Isaac

Joe Isaac, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 9, 2006

I, Eleanor Kirkland, S.C. Educator Certificate 111917 do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval on August 9, 2006.

/S/ Eleanor Kirkland
Eleanor Kirkland

Date